

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center having a message translator for translating messages between parties of a telephone call from text to speech and from speech to text, ~~as required~~, the method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

providing a full-duplex text communication link between at least a first party of a number of parties of the telephone call and the message translator via ~~one of~~ an Internet Protocol connection ~~and network connection~~;

providing a voice communication link between at least a second party of the number of parties of the telephone call and the message translator; and

providing a communication link between a conference bridge and the message translator, thereby allowing the first party to participate in a conference call with at least the second party via the full-duplex text communication link.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 1, wherein the full-duplex text communication link between at least the first party of the telephone call and the message translator is provided by:

providing a server having communication capability over ~~at least one of an~~ Internet Protocol ~~and network~~ connection;

providing an Internet Protocol ~~or network~~ connection capable communication device to the first party of the telephone call;

establishing ~~one of an~~ a full-duplex text Internet Protocol connection ~~and network connection~~ from the first party of the telephone call to the server;

establishing a ~~plain-text~~ full-duplex text connection between the server and the relay center; and

through a switching device at the relay center, directing the ~~plain-text~~ full-duplex text connection to an available message translator to complete the full-duplex text communication

link.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 2, wherein the voice communication link between at least the second party of the number of parties of the telephone call and the message translator is provided by:

identifying to the message translator a telephone number of the second party to be called;

the message translator effecting a dial out from the relay center to the second party at the identified telephone number and establishing a dial-up connection to complete the voice communication link.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 2, wherein the voice communication link between at least the second party of the number of parties of the telephone call and the message translator is provided by:

dialing out from the second party to the relay center and establishing a dial-up connection between the second party and the relay center, and

through a switching device at the relay center, directing the dial-up connection to an available message translator to complete the voice communication link.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 1, wherein the full-duplex text communication link between at least the first party of the telephone call and the message translator is provided by:

providing a terminal device having communication capability to the first party of the telephone call;

the message translator effecting a dial out from the relay center to the terminal device of the first party; and

establishing a ~~plain-text~~ full-duplex text connection between the relay center and the terminal device to complete the full-duplex text communication link.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 1, wherein the full-duplex text communication link between at least the first party of the telephone call and the message translator is provided by:

providing a server having communication capability over ~~at least one of an~~ Internet Protocol ~~and network~~ connection;

providing ~~one of an~~ Internet Protocol ~~and network~~ connection capable communication device to the first party of the telephone call;

the message translator establishing a ~~plain-text~~ full-duplex text connection between the relay center and the server; and

establishing ~~one of an~~ a full-duplex text Internet Protocol connection ~~and network connection~~ from the server to the first party of the telephone call to complete the full-duplex text communication link.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for providing telephone call message translation via a relay center as claimed in claim 7, wherein the full-duplex text communication link between at least the first party of the telephone call and the message translator comprises a real-time exchange of messages.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing telephone call message translation, the system comprising:

a relay center having a message translator for translating messages between a number of parties of a telephone call from text to speech and from speech to text, ~~as required~~;

at least one terminal device having ~~at least one of~~ Internet Protocol ~~and network~~ connection capability for use by at least a first party of the telephone call; and

a server having a front end interface for establishing ~~one of an~~ Internet Protocol ~~and network~~ full-duplex text connection to the terminal device and a back end interface for establishing a full-duplex text connection to the relay center; and

a conference bridge coupled with the relay center to allow the first party to participate in a conference call via the full-duplex text connections.

10. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the relay center further comprises at least one dial-up telephone interface for effecting a dial-up connection between the message translator of the relay center and at least a second party of the telephone call.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the relay center further comprises a switching device for directing a ~~plain-text~~ full-duplex text connection from the server to an available message translator.

12. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the front end of the server comprises a web server; and wherein the back end of the server comprises an access server.